media release

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ABC BOARD HOLDS ITS SECOND COMMUNITY FORUM IN THE NSW RIVERINA

The ABC Board held its second Community Forum in the NSW Riverina on 10 August 2017.

The forum, which was attended by more than 90 people, provided the community with an opportunity to meet with members of the ABC Board and to share their feedback with the national broadcaster.

Guests spoke about a range of topics including the trustworthiness and independence of the ABC, the value of localism and the need to balance regional and national content, and the importance of emergency broadcasting and the role the ABC plays in informing communities during these times.

The event, which was also attended by members of the ABC Leadership Team and the Advisory Council, is one of three Community Forums that will be held in regional Australia this year.

ABC Managing Director, Michelle Guthrie, said that the Community Forums allowed the ABC to engage with a wide range of Australians.

"The Community Forums enable us to hear what audiences value about the national broadcaster and the areas that can be improved. They also allow us to hear from Australians who do not consume the ABC's content or use its services – so it's valuable to hear different perspectives."

"One of the key things that we keep hearing is that Australians value and trust the ABC."

"We have also learnt that our audience's needs and expectations differ – and that's why the ABC must continue to evolve – to ensure that we remain relevant to all Australians for generations to come," Ms Guthrie said.

The first Community Forum was held in <u>Alice Springs</u> in July. The third Community Forum will be held in October 2017.

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